Setting up of desalination plant At Chennai

1442. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has worked on desalination technologies and has experience in erecting large-scale desalination plants;

(b) if so, the details of plants erected by them to help drinking water problem; and

(c) whether they would participate in the proposed desalination plants to be set up in Chennai that would produce 300 million litres of potable water a day?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has set up a Reverse Osmosis (RO) Desalination Plant with a capacity of 18 (eighteen) lakh litres per day as a part of Nuclear Desalination Demonstration Project (NDDP), Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu for sea water desalination which is operating satisfactorily. Another plant of the proejct is being set up by using Multi-Stage Flash (MSF) technology with a capacity of 45 lakh literes/day at Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS), Kalpakkam.

BARC has also set up Desalination Plants at Sheelgaon village in Barmer district (Rajasthan) [30,000 litres/day capacity] and Satlana village in Jodhpur district (30,000 litres/day capacity) in cooperaiton with Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur (Rajasthan) for providing drinking water from bore well/ brackish water sources.

(c) BARC may provide technical support in the proposed desalination plants to be set up in Chennai, if required.

Royalties on coal

1443. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) considering that the ratio between royalties for higher and inferior rates in coals as in the year 1971 has progressively declined against the